

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 05780 161126Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 SS-15 NIC-01 OES-03 EB-04 COME-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /063 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1206

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5780

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR YO TU UK IT

SUBJECT: GOY DEMARCHE ON NATO MANEUVERS IN ADRIATIC

1. UK AMBASSADOR STEWART IS RECOMMENDING TO LONDON THAT AT LEAST AT THIS STAGE NO RESPONSE BE MADE TO YUGOSLAV DEMARCHE REGARDING NAVOCFORMED MANEUVERS. WE CONFIRMED TO HIM THAT IN MAKING DEMARCHE, PETROVIC HAD REQUESTED ONLY THAT GOY VIEWS BE TRANSMITTED TO USG AND HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED ANY ANSWER. STEWART NOTED THAT NEITHER HE NOR ITALIAN AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN ASKED FOR A RESPONSE, WHEREAS TURKISH AMBASSADOR HAS THE IMPRESSION PETROVIC DID ASK HIM FOR A REPLY. STEWART FINDS SIGNIFICANT THAT IN AT LEAST THREE OF THE FOUR CASES THE YUGOSLAVS DID NOT INDICATE ANY EXPECTATION OR DESIRE FOR REPLIES.

2. RECALLING PREVIOUS INCIDENTS OF THIS SORT, STEWART BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE A NONPRODUCTIVE EXERCISE FOR ALLIES TO RESPOND, INASMUCH AS YUGOSLAVS WILL ALWAYS SEEK
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 05780 161126Z

TO HAVE LAST PUBLIC WORD. IN STEWART'S OPINION, IF IN

FACT THESE ARE FIRST NATO MANEUVERS IN ADRIATIC IT IS ENTIRELY UNDERSTANDABLE WHY YUGOSLAVS FELT NEED FOR PUBLIC PROTEST (SEPTEL REPORTS PROMINENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROTEST MORNING PRESS NOV 16), IN VIEW OF PERCEIVED REQUIREMENT TO KEEP BALANCE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST AND HOPEFULLY PREVENT EITHER BLOC'S MANEUVERS FROM APPROACHING YUGOSLAVIA.

3. STEWART CONCLUDES THAT WE WILL HAVE TO OBSERVE HOW YUGOSLAVS PLAY PROTEST AND MANEUVERS IN PRESS IN COMING DAYS. EVEN IF YUGOSLAVS MOUNT PROPAGANDA EXERCISE, HE IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE BEST ALLIED ACTION IS TO SAY NOTHING.

4. COMMENT:

LIKE STEWART, WE ARE CONVINCED ALLIES WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY LIMITATION ON AREAS OF NATO MANEUVERS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, AND IF WE RESPOND TO GOY WE WOULD HAVE TO STATE THIS. WE FIND HIS VIEWS PERCEPTIVE AND THEREFORE RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT CONSIDER, AT LEAST FOR NOW, HOLDING OFF PUBLIC OR PRIVATE RESPONSE TO GOY DEMARCHE.
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